

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TSPA

SUBJECT: ARGENTINE LANDSAT STATION

REF: BA 4813

1. NASA-CNIE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR LANDSAT GROUND STATION BEING CLEARED INTERNALLY IN NASA AND SHOULD BE SIGNED AND IN EMBASSY HANDS WITHIN A FEW DAYS. MOU REQUIRES ARGENTINE EFFORT TO DISCUSS PLANS WITH BRAZIL & CHILE AND TO REACH AN UNDERSTANDING WITH BRAZIL ON HOW TO HANDLE REQUESTS FOR DATA OF AREAS COVERED BY BOTH STATIONS. THIS IS RESULT OF NASA RECOGNITION OF ECONOMIC BASIS OF AGENCIES CURRENTLY OPERATING GROUND STATIONS. PROLIFERATION OF GROUND STATIONS WITH OVERLAPPING COVERAGE WOULD SERIOUSLY UNDERMINE THE DATA SALES POTENTIAL OF EXISTING STATIONS WHICH HAVE MADE INVESTMENTS AVERAGING FIVE MILLION DOLLARS WITH ANNUAL OPERATING COSTS OF ONE TO TWO MILLION.

2. NASA EXPLAINED ABOVE TO BOTH TASSO AND SANCHEZ PENA AND IN DISCUSSION WITH SANCHEZ PENA INDICATED THAT IT PREFERRED UNCLASSIFIED

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TO WAIT UNTIL ABOVE ACTIONS WERE COMPLETE BEFORE SIGNING

AGREEMENT. SANCHEZ PENA, HOWEVER PUSHED FOR EARLY SIGNING OF AGREEMENT FOR QUOTE INTERNAL REASONS UNQUOTE. NASA AGREED TO GO FORWARD WITH THE AGREEMENT PROVIDED THE

FOLLOWING CLAUSE WAS ADDED.

3. ACTUAL TEXT READS: QUOTE 7. IMPLEMENTATION OF NASA'S OBLIGATIONS AS SET FORTH IN THIS AGREEMENT IS CONTINGENT UPON THE FOLLOWING: (A) CONFIRMATION BY CNIE THAT IT HAS DISCUSSED ITS PLANS WITH COUNTRIES OPERATING OR PLANNING TO OPERATE LANDSAT GROUND STATIONS HAVING COVERAGE AREAS WHICH WOULD OVERLAP WITH THE MAR CHIQUITA GROUND STATION AND (B) IN THE CASE OF BRAZIL WHERE A LANDSAT STATION IS ALREADY IN OPERATION, CONFIRMATION BY THE APPROPRIATE ARGENTINE AND BRAZILIAN AGENCIES THAT A SATISFACTORY UNDERSTANDING HAS BEEN REACHED REGARDING RESPONSES TO REQUESTS FOR DATA OF THE OVERLAPPING COVERAGE AREA. IN THE EVENT THAT AFTER A REASONABLE PERIOD, A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE UNDERSTANDING HAS NOT BEEN REACHED BETWEEN THE APPROPRIATE ARGENTINE AND BRAZILIAN AGENCIES, NASA RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REVIEW THE REQUIREMENTS OF THIS PARAGRAPH. UNQUOTE

4. SANCHEZ PENA AGREED TO LANGUAGE PARA 3 WHEN HE WAS IN US. ACTION NOW WITH CNIE TO COMPLETE CONSULTATION AND IN CASE OF BRAZIL REACH MUTUALLY SATISFACTORY UNDERSTANDING WITH BRAZILIAN SPACE OFFICIALS REGARDING HANDLING OF REQUESTS FOR DATA OF AREA COVERED BY BRAZILIAN AND PLANNED MAR CHIQUITA STATION. IN ADDITION TO CNIE LETTERS INITIATING THIS PROCESS, NASA WROTE TO BRAZIL AND CHILE TO INDICATE DESIRE THAT DISCUSSIONS COMMENCE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. HABIB

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